

STATEMENT OF BASIS

as required by LAC 33:IX.3109, for draft **Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. LA0043974; AI 42465; PER20050001** to discharge to waters of the **State of Louisiana** as per LAC 33:IX.2311.

The **permitting authority** for the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) is:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
P. O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

- I. **THE APPLICANT IS:** Village of Mer Rouge
Mer Rouge Wastewater Treatment Facility
P.O. Box 238
Mer Rouge, LA 71261
- II. **PREPARED BY:** Ronda Burtch
- DATE PREPARED:** March 28, 2007
- III. **PERMIT ACTION:** reissue LPDES permit LA0043974, AI 42465; PER20050001
- LPDES application received: October 31, 2005
- LPDES permit issued: June 1, 2001
LPDES permit expired: May 31, 2006

IV. FACILITY INFORMATION:

- A. The application is for the discharge of treated sanitary wastewater from a publicly owned treatment works serving the Village of Mer Rouge.
- B. The permit application does not indicate the receipt of industrial wastewater.
- C. The facility is located 1/2 mile northwest of the city limits on Parish Highway 6645 in Mer Rouge, Morehouse Parish.
- D. The treatment facility consists of two-cell oxidation pond followed by two rock reed filters. Disinfection is by chlorination.

E. Outfall 001

Discharge Location: Latitude 32° 47' 10" North
Longitude 91° 48' 30" West

Description: treated sanitary wastewater

Design Capacity: 0.50 MGD

Type of Flow Measurement which the facility is currently using:

V-Notch Weir / Combination totalizing meter/continuous recorder

Please note that if the facility grows to a discharge beyond the design capacity of the facility, additional sewage treatment may be required with prior approval of the facility's plans by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and notification must be submitted to the LDEQ. Also, if the expected flow reaches or exceeds the design capacity of the facility, a permit modification may be required.

V. RECEIVING WATERS:

The discharge is into an unnamed parish drainage ditch, thence into Little Bayou Gallion, thence into Bayou Gallion, thence into Bayou Lafourche in segment 080904 of the Ouachita River Basin. This segment is not listed on the 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies.

The designated uses and degree of support for Segment 080904 of the Ouachita River Basin are as indicated in the table below^{1/}:

Overall Degree of Support for Segment 080904	Degree of Support of Each Use						
	Primary Contact Recreation	Secondary Contact Recreation	Propagation of Fish & Wildlife	Outstanding Natural Resource Water	Drinking Water Supply	Shell fish Propagation	Agriculture
Partial	Full	Full	Not Supported	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

^{1/}The designated uses and degree of support for Segment 080904 of the Ouachita River Basin are as indicated in LAC 33:IX.1123.C.3, Table (3) and the 2004 Water Quality Management Plan, Water Quality Inventory Integrated Report, Appendix A, respectively.

VI. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

The receiving waterbody, Subsegment 080904 of the Ouachita River Basin, is not listed in Section II.2 of the Implementation Strategy as requiring consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This strategy was submitted with a letter dated September 29, 2006 from Watson (FWS) to Brown (LDEQ). Therefore, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the LDEQ and the FWS, no further informal (Section 7, Endangered Species Act) consultation is required. It was determined that the issuance of the LPDES permit is not likely to have an adverse effect on any endangered or candidate species or the critical habitat. The effluent limitations established in the permit ensure protection of aquatic life and maintenance of the receiving water as aquatic habitat.

VII. HISTORIC SITES:

The discharge is from an existing facility location, which does not include an expansion beyond the existing perimeter. Therefore, there should be no potential effect to sites or properties on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and in accordance with the 'Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Historic Properties in Louisiana Regarding LPDES Permits' no consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer is required.

VIII. PUBLIC NOTICE:

Upon publication of the public notice, a public comment period shall begin on the date of publication and last for at least 30 days thereafter. During this period, any interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit modification and may request a public hearing to clarify issues involved in the permit decision at this Office's address on the first page of the statement of basis. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

Public notice published in:

Local newspaper of general circulation

Office of Environmental Services Public Notice Mailing List

For additional information, contact:

Ms. Ronda Burtch
Permits Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
P. O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

IX. PROPOSED PERMIT LIMITS:

Subsegment 080904, Bayou Lafourche - Near Oakridge to Boeuf River near Columbia, is not listed on LDEQ's Final 2004 303(d) List as impaired. However subsegment 080904 was previously listed as impaired for organic enrichment/low DO, priority organics (including Dioxins), suspended solids/turbidity, and phosphorus, for which the below TMDLs have been developed. The Department of Environmental Quality reserves the right to impose more stringent discharge limitations and/or additional restrictions in the future to maintain the water quality integrity and the designated uses of the receiving waterbodies based upon additional TMDLs and/or water quality studies. The DEQ also reserves the right to modify or revoke and reissue this permit based upon any changes to established TMDLs for this discharge, or to accommodate for pollutant trading provisions in approved TMDL watersheds as necessary to achieve compliance with water quality standards.

Bayou Lafourche TMDLs for Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients

Per the TMDL, "In order to maintain the DO standard of 5.0 mg/L throughout the subsegment, nonpoint source loads will need to be reduced 81%, and treatment upgrades will be required for some of the point sources. The Village of Mer Rouge was not included in the point sources required to upgrade their facilities. Therefore, limitations will remain as previously permitted.

Dioxin TMDL for Tisdale Brake, Staulkinghead Creek, Little Bayou Boeuf, Wham Brake, and Bayou Lafourche

The only identified point source pollutant loading of Dioxin is the discharge into Staulkinghead Creek from IP's Louisiana mill (NPDES permit number LA0007561) outfall 001. Therefore, limitations for priority pollutants (including Dioxins) will not be required of this facility.

TMDL for TSS, Turbidity and Siltation for 13 Subsegments in the Ouachita River Basin

As per TMDL, "Point sources do not represent a significant source of TSS as defined in this TMDL. Because an enforceable mechanism is in place to protect from discharges of organic suspended solids no TMDL is required for these materials." Therefore, TSS limits will remain as previously permitted.

Final Effluent Limits:

OUTFALL 001

Final limits shall become effective on the effective date of the permit and expire on the expiration date of the permit.

Effluent Characteristic	Monthly Avg. (lbs./day)	Monthly Avg.	Weekly Avg.	Basis
CBOD ₅	42	10 mg/l	15 mg/l	Limits are set in accordance with the Statewide Sanitary Effluent Limitations (SSEL) for facilities of this size listed in the original Ouachita River Basin Plan requiring advanced treatment.
TSS	63	15 mg/l	23 mg/l	Limits are set in accordance with the Statewide Sanitary Effluent Limitations (SSEL) for facilities of this size listed in the original Ouachita River Basin Plan requiring advanced treatment.
Ammonia-Nitrogen	21	5 mg/l	10 mg/l	Limits are set in accordance with the Statewide Sanitary Effluent Limitations (SSEL) for facilities of this size listed in the original Ouachita River Basin Plan requiring advanced treatment.

Other Effluent Limitations:

1) Fecal Coliform

The discharge from this facility is into a water body which has a designated use of Primary Contact Recreation. According to LAC 33:IX.1113.C.5.b.i, the fecal coliform standards for this water body are 200/100 ml and 400/100 ml. Therefore, the limits of 200/100 ml (Monthly Average) and 400/100 ml (Weekly Average) are proposed as Fecal Coliform limits in the permit. These limits are being proposed through Best Professional Judgement in order to ensure that the water body standards are not exceeded, and due to the fact that existing facilities have demonstrated an ability to comply with these limitations using present available technology.

2) pH

According to LAC 33:IX.3705.A.1., POTW's must treat to at least secondary levels. Therefore, in accordance with LAC 33:IX.5905.C., the pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 9.0 standard units at any time.

3) Solids and Foam

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts in accordance with LAC 33:IX.1113.B.7.

X. PREVIOUS PERMITS:

LPDES Permit No. LA0043974:

Issued: June 1, 2001

Expired: May 31, 2006

<u>Effluent Characteristic</u>	<u>Discharge Limitations</u>		<u>Monitoring Requirements</u>	
	<u>Daily Avg.</u>	<u>Daily Max.</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow	Report	Report	Continuous	Recorder
CBOD ₅	10 mg/l	15 mg/l	2/month	Grab
TSS	15 mg/l	23 mg/l	2/month	Grab
Ammonia-Nitrogen	5 mg/l	10 mg/l	2/month	Grab
Fecal Coliform Colonies	200	400	2/month	Grab

The permit contains pollution prevention language.

XI. ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIONS:

A) Inspections

A review of the files indicates that there have been no recent inspections performed for this facility.

B) Compliance and/or Administrative Orders

A review of the files indicates that there have been no enforcement actions administered against this facility.

C) DMR Review

A review of the discharge monitoring reports for the period beginning January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006 has revealed the following violation:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>DMR Reported Value</u>	<u>Permit Limit</u>
January 2005	Ammonia-Nitrogen, Monthly Avg.	7.99 mg/l	5 mg/l
	Ammonia-Nitrogen, Weekly Avg.	13.5 mg/l	10 mg/l

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Department of Environmental Quality reserves the right to impose more stringent discharge limitations and/or additional restrictions in the future to maintain the water quality integrity and the designated uses of the receiving water bodies based upon additional water quality studies and/or TMDL's. The DEQ also reserves the right to modify or revoke and reissue this permit based upon any changes to established TMDL's for this discharge, or to accommodate for pollutant trading provisions in approved TMDL watersheds as requested by the permittee and/or as necessary to achieve compliance with water quality standards. Therefore, prior to upgrading or expanding this facility, the permittee should contact the Department to determine the status of the work being done to establish future effluent limitations and additional permit conditions.

Final effluent loadings (i.e. lbs/day) have been established based upon the permit limit concentrations and the design capacity of 0.50 MGD.

Effluent loadings are calculated using the following example:

$$\text{CBOD: } 8.34 \text{ lb/gal} \times 0.50 \text{ MGD} \times 10 \text{ mg/l} = 42 \text{ lb/day}$$

At present, the **Monitoring Requirements, Sample Types, and Frequency of Sampling** as shown in the permit are standard for facilities of flows between 0.10 and 0.50 MGD.

<u>Effluent Characteristics</u>	<u>Monitoring Requirements</u>	
	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow	Continuous	Recorder
CBOD ₅	2/month	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	2/month	Grab
Ammonia-Nitrogen	2/month	Grab
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	2/month	Grab
pH	2/month	Grab

Pretreatment Requirements

Based upon consultation with LDEQ pretreatment personnel, general pretreatment language will be used due to the lack of either an approved or required pretreatment program.

Pollution Prevention Requirements

The permittee shall institute or continue programs directed towards pollution prevention. The permittee shall institute or continue programs to improve the operating efficiency and extend the useful life of the facility. The permittee will complete an annual Environmental Audit Report **each year** for the life of this permit according to the schedule below. The permittee will accomplish this requirement by completing an Environmental Audit Form which has been attached to the permit. All other requirements of the Municipal Wastewater Pollution Prevention Program are contained in Part II of the permit.

The audit evaluation period is as follows:

Audit Period Begins	Audit Period Ends	Audit Report Completion Date
Effective Date of Permit	12 Months from Audit Period Beginning Date	3 Months from Audit Period Ending Date

XIII TENTATIVE DETERMINATION:

On the basis of preliminary staff review, the Department of Environmental Quality has made a tentative determination to reissue a permit for the discharge described in this Statement of Basis.

XIV REFERENCES:

Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan / Continuing Planning Process, Vol. 8, "Wasteload Allocations / Total Maximum Daily Loads and Effluent Limitations Policy," Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 2005.

Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan / Continuing Planning Process, Vol. 5, "Water Quality Inventory Section 305(b) Report," Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 1998.

Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33 - Environmental Quality, Part IX - Water Quality Regulations, Chapter 11 - "Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards," Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 2004.

Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33 - Environmental Quality, Part IX - Water Quality Regulations, Subpart 2 - "The LPDES Program," Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 2004.

Low-Flow Characteristics of Louisiana Streams, Water Resources Technical Report No. 22, United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1980.

Index to Surface Water Data in Louisiana, Water Resources Basic Records Report No. 17, United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1989.

LPDES Permit Application to Discharge Wastewater, Village of Mer Rouge, Mer Rouge Wastewater Treatment Facility, October 31, 2005.